

ADMISSION GUIDE 2026

UNVEIL YOUR INNER ARTIST

DIPLOMA OF COLLEGIAL
STUDIES (DEC)

DANSE-INTERPRÉTATION
(CONTEMPORAIN) 561.BB

IN COLLABORATION
WITH CÉGEP DU VIEUX MONTRÉAL



ÉCOLE DE
DANSE
CONTEMPORAINE
DE MONTRÉAL

ED
CM

CONTEMPORARY DANCE LEADER IN TRAINING CANADA

A RECOGNIZED PUBLIC INSTITUTION

Since 1981, the École de danse contemporaine de Montréal has been training professional dancers who have gone on to earn national and international recognition.

Recognized for its leading-edge, rigorous training, the School offers a 3-year college level education based on the mastery of contemporary dance techniques, the development of artistic and intellectual knowledge and versatility of performance. It is affiliated with the Cégep du Vieux Montréal, accredited by the Quebec Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur, and supported by Canadian Heritage.

The School is a centre of excellence in the performing arts and has trained more than 500 dancers who now perform with renowned dance companies in Quebec, Canada and abroad.

HIGH-CALIBRE FACILITIES

The School recently moved into the Wilder-Espace Danse building, the new venue devoted to dance in Montreal. Equipped with facilities that meet international dance standards, it is also the home of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, Tangente and Agora de la Danse. The result of a sustainable transformation of a heritage building, the Wilder Building Espace Danse has been awarded LEED-NC Silver certification by the Canada Green Building Council. Located in the heart of Quartier des spectacles, this unique space will inspire the performers of tomorrow by strengthening the reputation of Montreal and Quebec as a world leader in dance creation and innovation.



Photo: David Boyer



Dancer: Lilly Bouvier

KEY DATES*

EXPLORATION DAY	AUGUST 22, 2025
JOURNÉES DE LA CULTURE	SEPTEMBER 26, 2025
OPEN HOUSE – EDCM	NOVEMBER 8, 2025
REGISTRATION DEADLINE & AUDITION BY VIDEO	JANUARY 8, 2026
1ST ROUND AUDITION IN MONTREAL	JANUARY 23-24-25, 2026
2ND ROUND AUDITION	FEBRUARY 20-21-22, 2026

** Subject to change*

A DAY AT THE SCHOOL

IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING A CAREER AS A PROFESSIONAL CONTEMPORARY DANCER, DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE A DAY IN THE SHOES OF A STUDENT FROM THE ÉCOLE DE DANSE CONTEMPORAINE DE MONTREAL. WITNESS FIRSTHAND WHAT OUR DANCE STUDENTS EXPERIENCE!

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

- OCTOBER 24, 2025
- NOVEMBER 14, 2025
- FEBRUARY 6, 2026

SHOWS

AT THE END OF EACH TERM, IN DECEMBER AND MAY, IT IS POSSIBLE TO ATTEND THE SCHOOL'S SHOWS. SEVERAL PERFORMANCES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE.

DANCE

A TUNE SCHOOL WITH THAT THE IS IN PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

Canadian employers who have hired dancers over the past five years rate the School as a leader in this discipline.

The program is designed to meet the demanding criteria of today's leading contemporary dance companies. Students will be given multiple opportunities to interact with potential employers and lay the groundwork for their professional careers. In this regard, the School has an exemplary job placement rate. In Quebec, some 40 choreographers and dance companies regularly employ the School's graduates, who have performed on stages throughout the world.



Dancer: Jane Millette

ARTISTIC AND PROGRAM DIRECTOR

WELCOME TO ÉCOLE DE DANSE CONTEMPORAINE DE MONTRÉAL

As you step through our doors, you will find yourself surrounded by a devoted and experienced team of directors, teachers and choreographers who are not only accomplished artists and professionals but also dedicated mentors. We strongly believe in the power of diversity and inclusivity. We celebrate the uniqueness of each individual and create a safe and supportive environment where you can express yourself freely, discover your creativity, and build lifelong friendships and networks with like-minded peers.

The school hosts a vibrant community of uniquely talented students who have chosen to embark upon an extraordinary journey in contemporary dance. As one of the leading institutions for dance education we understand that pursuing a career in dance requires dedication, perseverance, and resilience.

EDCM is more than just a school; it is a nurturing and inspiring space where dancers from all walks of life come together to explore, create, and push the boundaries of contemporary dance. Throughout your 3 years, 6 sessions and 2400 hours of time with us, you will be supported and accompanied through a comprehensive curriculum that encompasses contemporary dance techniques, creative research, improvisation, repertoire, creation, and performance. We are committed to nurturing your artistic growth, and fostering your creativity as you are immersed in a rich and dynamic dance culture. We endeavor to broaden your horizons and assist you in shaping your own artistic identity as you develop into a well-rounded and versatile dancer.

Lisa Davies

Photo: Sasha Onyshchenko



Lisa Davies has been working in the professional dance field for over thirty years, in Quebec and internationally. Throughout her career, she danced on international stages as a performer (Les Grands Ballets, Édouard Lock/La La La Human Steps, Crystal Pite, Ohad Naharin, William Forsythe etc.), as a guest teacher and rehearsal director for over 15 different companies (Emily Molnar/Ballet BC, Christian Spuck, RUBBERBANDance Group, BJM Danse, Akram Khan Company, National Ballet of Canada, Ballet Zurich, Czech National Ballet, Stuttgart Ballet, Cas Public, Wayne McGregor Random Dance Company, etc.), and founded Danse à la Carte where she was general and artistic director for nearly a decade. In addition to supporting hundreds of professional performers and choreographers annually via daily training, residencies and networking opportunities through dance, the organization annually holds the intensive TransFormation Danse as well as Propulsion, which has taken turns welcoming renowned artists from all walks of contemporary life (Edouard Lock, Hofesh Shechter, Margie Gillis, Louise Lecavalier, Virginie Brunelle, Catherine Gaudet, Victor Quijada, Frédérick Gravel, Alan Lake, Sylvain Emard, Mélanie Demers, Marcos Morau, Adi Salant, Alexandra Spicey Landé, Emmanuelle Le Phan....) in order to provide workshops and networking opportunities to the dance community.

In the past decade, Lisa's commitment to art and artists has supported hundreds of dancers and choreographers and as many creative projects locally and internationally. Sought after for her expertise and renowned for her integrity, her passion and her dedication to exploring and advancing the practice, she took over the artistic direction of the École de danse contemporaine de Montréal in 2023.

CONTEMPORARY DANCE TRAINING

The School offers a three-year Diploma of Collegial Studies (DEC 561.BB) approved by the Quebec Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur.

Specific training is provided by the School while general education is offered by the Cégep du Vieux Montréal.*

The School also offers an AEC (NRC.05, Attestation d'études collégiales) program which is composed of only the specific dance courses (see p.15).

CULTIVATE UNIQUENESS

To develop their artistic individuality during their training, students will embrace a process to develop their sensitivity and creativity.

In addition to being talented and in excellent physical condition, students must demonstrate creativity, motivation, discipline and passion for their art. The program is very intense and demanding and therefore requires exceptional drive and determination. Training to become a professional dancer requires a serious commitment throughout the duration of the studies, demanding day, evening as well as weekend availability.

HIGH-LEVEL, INDIVIDUAL-CENTRED EDUCATION

The faculty includes performers, educators and renowned masters from the international dance scene. Requiring very high ratios of teachers per student, the school strives to vary its approaches and its faculty is actively involved in the field.

A SCHOOL THAT EMBRACES INNOVATION

A unique incubator for talent and a privileged meeting place for local professionals and emerging young artists, the EDCM is fertile ground for research and artistic development as well as the emergence of new trends. It is a contemporary school that contributes to the renewal of creative forces within the field.

* Students who wish to take their academic courses in English may do so at Dawson College (conditions apply).

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A DANCE STUDENT

The morning typically consists of classes in anatomy, dance-related fitness training and technique classes (contemporary fundamentals, ballet fundamentals and new practices). These are generally followed by classes in performance, improvisation, and partnering work.

Afternoons are generally devoted to choreographic creation, creative research, and interpretation classes. By learning choreographic excerpts and participating in the creation of new dance works, students learn the skills required by the professional milieu. They become familiar with the entire process of creating dance intended for public performance. These classes enable students to broaden their knowledge of contemporary dance repertoire and to experiment with solo performance pieces. During their training, students have the opportunity to work with about 15 choreographers.

Music, Dance History, Contemporary Art History and Career Management courses complete the day. There are 14 academic courses including English, Humanities, French, Complementary courses and Physical Education.

TÉMOIGNAGE

"The EDCM standards are unquestionably high. Its program is a role model in Canada and ranks among the best schools worldwide. However, what sets the EDCM program apart and makes it unique is the emphasis on the variety and freedom of artistic exploration as well as on students' individual qualities. [...] The School therefore plays an exemplary role and has a direct impact on the contemporary dance artistic community across Canada through its graduates who travel across the country as well as through collaborations and encounters with other professional contemporary dance training schools in Canada."

Lina Cruz // Canadian Heritage Report, 2021

"L'École de danse contemporaine de Montréal certainly trains good dancers but above all, real artists... It is a place where the commitment towards the art of dance is profound and genuine. The creativity, professionalism and technical quality of its graduates promotes a real opening towards the different artistic practices the contemporary dance milieu."

Hélène Blackburn // Founder and Director of Cas Public

C S C H E D S U L E

Dancer: Fanny Laplanche

SPECIFIC TRAINING*

1ST YEAR

- Art History
- Contemporary Dance Technique I and II
- Creative Research I and II
- Rhythmic Approaches
- Interpretation I & II
- Dance & Society I
- Composition Elements I
- Anatomy for dance I and II

2ND YEAR

- Contemporary Dance Technique III and IV
- Interpretation III and VI
- Dance & Society II
- Partner Work
- Composition Elements II
- Anatomy for dance III & IV

3RD YEAR

- Contemporary Dance Technique V and VI
- Interpretation V & VI
- Creative Research III
- Career Management

GENERAL TRAINING

1ST YEAR

- Introduction to College English
- Literary Genres
- Knowledge and World Views
- Human Beings
- Physical Education (2)

2ND YEAR

- Literary Themes
- Applied Themes in English
- Applied Ethics
- French I
- Physical Education (1)

3RD YEAR

- French II
- Complementary Courses (2)

*Subject to change

SHOWS

Over the duration of the program, students will take part in the creation of six different shows and participate in a total of 30 performances. In addition, a highly qualified production team supports all student productions. Performances take place on prestigious Montreal stages that allow students to fully appreciate these first experiences with the profession.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Summer School lasts two or three weeks and is an opportunity for students to develop their technical and artistic skills with professional dancers and to become familiar with new dance approaches. It is also designed to make up for the absence of appropriate training during the summer. Summer School is compulsory for all students enrolled in the three-year DEC program. Please note that students are required to pay Summer School registration fees.

PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION

The School offers various services and privileges to support graduates in their efforts to enter the professional milieu:

- Access to free technique classes
- Career counselling and job placement services during the first year after graduation
- Studio time to complete dance projects
- The annual Sofia-Borella and Lucie Boissinot bursaries
- Boomerang gala to present choreographic creations in studio
- Regular posting of career opportunities.



Dancer: Samuel Duvall

STUDENT

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Students registered for the professional program (DEC and ACE) are eligible for the loans and bursaries offered by the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'enseignement supérieur.

afe.gouv.qc.ca/en

Financial assistance is also available at Cégep du Vieux Montréal. For information: cvm.qc.ca or local A3.32 or 514 982-3437 ext. 2047

HEALTH SERVICES

Students can consult a sports medicine doctor at the school. This weekly service is free of charge. Through a partnership with Kinatex Clinic, students receive professional osteopathy and physiotherapy services on site at an affordable price.

TRAINING ROOM

A training room is available to students Monday to Friday. Training equipment, exercise bikes and exercise balls are available for mobility and muscular strengthening exercises.



Dancer: Clara Truong

SERVICES

MEDIA CENTRE

The School's media centre houses a collection of more than 5,000 documents. Since 2006, the media centre has specialized in acquiring works from the Quebec repertoire from the 1950s to present. The media centre's services include consultation, lending and reservation of documents and audiovisual equipment, student work stations, and onsite consultation of audiovisual documents and thematic expositions.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Extracurricular activities enable students to become familiar with the dance community elsewhere in Quebec and in North America through exchanges with other schools. Other activities offered at the School include biennial trips to New York, Toronto, and participation in a variety of festivals, which gives students further opportunities to perform. Master classes with international artists are offered regularly at the School. Third year students participate in an annual event, danse TRANSIT, which facilitates the students' transition to a career as professional dance artists. The School also offers its students free tickets to contemporary dance shows.

STUDENT HOUSING

Résidences UQAM (East and West)
services.uqam.ca/services-offerts/residences-universitaires

EVO Montréal evomontreal.com

Campus1 MTL campus1mtl.ca

Contact Office A3.32 at cégep du Vieux-Montréal.

STUDYING IN MONTREAL



Dancer: Margaux Pommier



Dancers: Alice Larrière, Iban Bourgoin

MONTREAL, MÉTROPOLE CULTURELLE

Montreal has a renowned reputation for the quality and diversity of its contemporary dance scene. Home to several international dance companies, Montreal can take pride in being a dance Mecca, bringing together an impressive number of companies and groups within a tightly knit community. Its contemporary dance scene is flourishing thanks to public events such as the Festival TransAmériques (FTA) as well as many contemporary dance shows.

It's often said that Montreal is the most European city in North America and that it's creative, multicultural and has a good quality of life. Montreal ranks among the world's top student cities.

"You've got to be open-minded when changing your culture. It's true that contemporary dance in North America is very different, which can be quite unsettling, since you've got to deconstruct things in order to reconstruct them. I did a lot of technique in the past. At the School, we also did in-depth work on the dancer's creativity. I also enjoy all the guest choreographers from Quebec, Canada and abroad. This allows us to experience various contemporary dance approaches."

– Zoé Uliana, France

« HI-BONJOUR »

Montreal is a bilingual multicultural city. The school is proud to welcome students from different cultures as part of its professional training.

Testimonials from students and graduates who have learned or improved their French and/or English at the School:

"I didn't speak French before, but when I got to the dance School, I began integrating French into my life. I'm so happy that the School is in French, because I feel it's been a springboard for culture, living and working in Montreal."

– Chéline Lacroix, British Columbia, Canada

"Speaking the language opens more doors and many more opportunities."

– Lorena Salinas, Colombia

"We use this space to learn."

– Abe Simon Mijnheer, Netherlands

"This training teaches you a sensitivity that will help you your entire life. You come out of there profoundly changed. Some teachers are bilingual while certain choreographers only speak English. Now I'm practically bilingual."

– Charles Brecard, New Caledonia

To ensure their chances of success at the audition, applicants should have completed a minimum of five years of dance (contemporary, classical, jazz, urban dances, etc.). Good physical and artistic preparation is essential. Applicants are assessed based on a set of criteria.

Physical potential

- Posture
- Mobility of torso, limbs and pelvis
- Neuromuscular control and tone
- Coordination
- Efficiency of movement

Technical skills

- In-depth knowledge of the basic vocabulary common to modern, classical and jazz techniques (pliés, legwork, turns, jumps, adages and floor work)
- Ability to move different body segments in a harmonious way
- Ability to orient oneself in space
- Ability to dance to different tempos
- Dynamics
- Ability to dance while integrating a variety of physical qualities
- Memorization

Creativity and originality

- Ability to improvise through exploring individual movement
- Ability to interact with other dancers, space and music while still focusing on one's own movements

Personal expression

- Expressiveness
- Ability to express oneself through improvisation
- Ability to convey feelings, emotions and ideas through movement

Open-Mindedness

- Responsiveness
- Sensitivity to others
- Ability to listen actively and be open to others' ideas
- Experimentation
- Willingness to try new things

WEEKEND INTENSIVE WORKSHOPS

Six dance audition preparation classes.

Available this Fall

EDCM also offers a variety of recreational classes to the general public, including Improv and Contemporary barre.

Visit edcm.ca

Dancer: Renaud Tremblay

PREPARATION AUDITION

1ST ROUND AUDITION

Everyone who submits a complete application will be invited by letter to attend the first round auditions. Applicants will be asked to attend one of the first round audition dates. The jury is composed of members of the School's administrative and teaching staff, who possess a wide range of teaching skills.

Contemporary Dance Technique Class

The technique class runs for 1.5 hours, during which committee members assess candidates' physical potential, technical ability and artistic talent.

Improvisation Class

The structured improvisation class is designed to help evaluate the applicants' potential and artistic qualities, with particular attention to:

- originality
- personal expression
- ability to interact with other dancers
- openness to direction from the teacher

Please wear appropriate attire (unitard, leotard, etc.). No baggy clothing. Applicants are required to dance barefoot or with socks.

2ND ROUND AUDITION

Approximately two weeks after the first round auditions, whether they have been accepted for the second round audition or not, all candidates will be informed of their first round audition result by letter. Forty of these candidates are invited to participate in the second round audition, which is held on three days. Participation is mandatory for all days. The audition consists of six steps:

Technique Class

Although the evaluation criteria remain the same, the difficulty of the technique class is increased for the second round audition.

Repertoire Class

A choreographic excerpt is taught to applicants by a faculty member.

Improvisation Class

Composition Class

This is a collaborative effort, in which candidates are called upon to create a short dance in smaller teams and as a group.

Solo Performance

Applicants invited to the second round audition must present a two-minute contemporary dance solo for the adjudication committee. The solo may be the applicant's creation or that of a choreographer. Candidates must send their music digitally in advance and bring it on a cellular, MP3 player, or a CD for the solo performance. Costumes and props are not allowed.

Individual Interview

The interview permits the committee to become more familiar with the motivation and objectives of each candidate, additionally allowing the committee to answer questions and describe the program in greater detail to the applicant.

1ST ROUND AUDITION BY VIDEO AVAILABLE

Détails sur edcm.ca

Candidates will receive an answer within 2 weeks after the first round auditions (see page 14).

Audition Results

All candidates will be informed of their second round audition result in March.

No audition results or feedback concerning the auditions will be given over the phone.

Limited Enrolment

A maximum of 25 students will be accepted every year. A certain number of qualified candidates will be put on a waiting list.

AUDITION ADMISSION & PROCESS ADMISSION

To be eligible to audition, all applicants must have completed their high school diploma (DES) or an equivalent course of education by the end of the current academic year. Candidates must submit a complete online audition application before the deadline.

All official documents that are not available in French or English must be translated by a certified translator. The translator's seal is obligatory.

The online application must include:

- a completed audition registration form
- a completed questionnaire on previous dance experience and instruction
- proof of birth date (copy of health insurance card, driver's license or birth certificate)
- a transcript of artistic studies, if applicable
- The documents required are the applicant's 2 most recent official report cards. In addition to these documents university level students must provide a copy of their Secondary School Diploma (SSD) as well as their secondary IV and V and their college transcripts. French national applicants who have completed their lycée education must include the grades from the French written examination (EUF, French Baccalaureate or other examination).

A grade $\geq 10/20$ on the French Baccalaureate written examination is required by the cégep du Vieux-Montréal.

- any relevant medical information
- two recent photographs, one head shot and one full-length shot in dance attire (attire colour contrasted from the background)
- Payment covering the non-refundable \$50* audition fee must be paid by credit card on the online registration platform

* Non-refundable

Applicants from outside Montreal and international applicants

If you live more than 1,000 kilometers away from Montreal or other areas covered by the audition tour, and cannot be present for the first round auditions, please include with your application package a video (see details online). In-person attendance at the second round audition is compulsory.

Note: A written notice will be sent to candidates to confirm their registration for auditions. None of the above-mentioned documents will be returned.

Dancers: Ezra Guerrier (front), Clara Biernacki, Iban Bourgoin, Oly Dien, Ludovic Germain-Thivierge, Ezra Guerrier, Alice Larrière, Michelle Lucero Moris, Kate Manns, Jane Millette, Apolline Saulnier, Hortense Sierka, Clara Truong, Clara Uraquhart

REGISTRATION FOR THE DEC PROGRAM

Acceptance in the program is contingent on meeting college admission requirements and passing the second round audition. Candidates are informed in writing of the jury's final decision within two weeks of the second round audition.

Before you do anything

Applicants from Quebec completing Secondary V should also register in another program through the Service régional d'admission of their choice before March 1st so that their academic progress is not delayed if they do not pass the second round audition. It is very important not to indicate "Contemporary Dance Performance 561.BB" as the first choice in the first round, since the second round audition results are sent after March 1st. That way, those who are not accepted will still be able to register in another DEC program of their choice.

CANADIAN APPLICANTS (OUTSIDE QUÉBEC)

Canadian applicants residing outside Quebec will be informed of the administrative procedures to be carried out following the second audition. Please note that general academic courses in the Diploma of College Studies (DCS) are offered in French at the cégep du Vieux-Montréal and in English at Dawson College. All dance-specific courses given within the EDCM are taught in French, however assignments may, in most cases, be written in English. A mandatory French admission test is required by the cégep. At the end of the program, students must complete the French Exit Exam in order to obtain their college diploma.

Equivalence between the Quebec and Canadian education systems:

A secondary school diploma is required for admission into the DCS program.

Pursuing studies after the DCS – Should you choose to pursue university studies in Quebec, holders of a technical DCS diploma (such as the EDCM program) are eligible for undergraduate programs (3-year program) if specific entrance conditions for admission are met. Applicants are occasionally admitted without any special conditions, and possibly with a lighter course load. In other cases, the university will require applicants to take one or more remedial courses. It is the graduate's responsibility to request this information from the institution in question.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Every year, the School welcomes applicants from various countries. International candidates may choose between the following programs:

Registration for the DEC (561.BO) program

Following their acceptance into the program, the cégep du Vieux-Montréal accompanies the international student in the admission process at the cégep as well as the Certificat d'acceptation du Québec for education (CAQ) and the student visa applications. It is obligatory for all international students to acquire health and hospitalization insurance through the cégep du Vieux-Montréal (CVM). The admission letter issued by the the cégep du Vieux-Montréal (CVM) informs students regarding the tuition fees.

Registration for the AEC (NRC.05) program

The AEC (Attestation des études collégiales) is composed exclusively of the specialized dance courses. Following their acceptance into the program the School assists students with admission, as well as the Certificat d'acceptation du Québec for education (CAQ) and the student visa applications. In addition, it is obligatory for all foreign students to provide proof of private health insurance coverage. Some students from certain countries may be eligible for a reciprocal health and income security insurance with the province of Quebec. Please consult ramq.gouv.qc.ca/en.

International student must register in the program respecting all applicable policies and rules.

TUITION FEES*

If enrolled in four courses or 180 hours of classes per term Québec and French students receive free education (DCS program). For further details on tuition and other academic fees, visit the cégep du Vieux-Montréal's website.

* Subject to change

STUDENTS RESIDENCY	TUITION FEE	RELATED FEES
Quebec OR France DEC	\$0	\$195 / term
Other provinces of Canada DEC	\$1833 / term or \$193 / session according to eligibility criteria	–
International student AEC	\$4200 / term	\$200 / year

Photographers: Photos on stage: Maxime Côté
Photos in studio: Juan David Padilla
Dancers: Front cover: Nora Paquette
Back cover: Michelle Lucero Moris

UNVEIL YOUR INNER ARTIST

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM IN CONTEMPORARY DANCE

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